

Serial No.: 09/778,754
Art Unit: 2875

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed on April 23, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1-5 and 7-34 are respectfully requested.

Present Status of the Patent Application

Claims 1-5 and 7-34 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 7, 12, 13, and 15-20 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended. Claims 32-34 have been added. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 25-31 are allowable and that claims 8-11 and 21-24 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 14 was not specifically addressed in this Office Action, but was considered allowable in the Office Action mailed on October 17, 2002.

Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 7, 12, 13, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Schmidt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,077,641). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, because Schmidt fails to disclose "an adjustment mechanism that is operable from the external surface of the housing to cause movement of the reflector relative to the housing into a continuous range of operating positions."

Instead, Schmidt discloses a headlight for a power vehicle which includes a reflector that is turnable so that the rear side of the reflector with the light sources is turnable toward the opening of the frame. The headlight includes a housing 1, a reflector 2, a light disc 3, an opening 5 in housing 1, light sources 6/7, a turning frame 8 rotatably connected with a holding frame 15, a spring lever 11, and a pulling spring 20. The reflector 2 is connected to the turning frame 8 and rotated using the spring lever 11 and the pulling spring 20 only during non-operational periods in which one or more of the light sources 6/7 are being removed and replaced through the opening 5 in the housing 1. Pins 10, which the Examiner equates to an adjustment mechanism, extend outwardly from the turning frame 8 into openings 14 in the holding frame 15, but do not extend external the housing 1 and are not "operable from the external surface of the housing."

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Furthermore, a groove 13 in spring lever 11 engages a central part 18 of the holding frame 15 to hold the reflector 2 in its operational position. Upon releasing this engagement using an elastically deformable actuating part 11a of the spring lever 11, the reflector 2 is pulled **directly** by pulling spring 20 to a turning-out position to allow changing of light sources 6/7 through the opening 5. After completion of the changing of the light sources, the reflector 2 is moved back into its operational position by pushing the spring lever 11 until the groove 13 engages the central part 18. The operational position and the turning-out position are the only steady state positions of the reflector 2. The turning-out position is **not** an operational position of the reflector 2, and **no** operating positions exist between the operating position and the turning-out position. Therefore, the reflector 2 is **not** moved "into a continuous range of operating positions."

Clearly, Schmidt does not disclose "an adjustment mechanism that is operable from the external surface of the housing to cause movement of the reflector relative to the housing into a continuous range of operating positions."

As stated above, Schmidt does not anticipate all of the features in claims 1 and 15. Therefore, claims 1 and 15 are patentable over Schmidt.

Dependent Claims:

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-13, and 16-24 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 15, respectively.

Added Claims:

Added dependent claims 31-34 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 25.

Information Disclosure Statement:

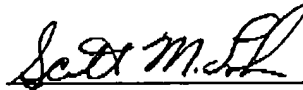
Finally the Examiner is urged to initial and return a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449) that was filed with the application on February 8, 2001, or indicate why the entering of this document has been refused. A copy of that document is attached to this paper.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-5 and 7-34 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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JUL 22 2003

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